

The Messenger

Underwood Lutheran Church

December, 2017

Pastor Scott Dalen

Underwood Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 9 – 10 3rd. Ave.
Underwood, IA 51576

Congregational President – Michael Johnson 701-658-0084
Editor, Secretary – Tonya Mayer – 566-9823
Church Phone # - 566-2257
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SUNDY SCHOOL-CONFIRMATION-ADULT BIBLE STUDY @ 9:00 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE @10:15 AM



- High School will meet on the 6th and the 20th.
 - Pastor Scott will hold a new member class on Wednesday November 29th at 7:00pm. New members will be accepted into the congregation during worship on Sunday December 3rd.
 - We will hold our annual Harvest Festival following worship on Sunday December 3rd. The church will provide chicken. Everyone is invited to bring along a casserole or side dish or desert to share.
 - The Choraleers will lead worship on Sunday December 10th, providing their annual Christmas program.
 - The Sunday School and Junior High students will lead worship on Sunday December 17th. The sermon for the day will feature the Sunday School's Christmas message, with the Junior High students leading the rest of worship. Holy Communion will be celebrated as usual during worship.
 - The Wednesday evening study of the Small Catechism continues through December, focusing on the Apostles Creed. An introductory class will occur on November 29th. December 6th, 13th, and 20th will each feature one of the three articles of the creed. Discussion begins at 6pm. Everyone is welcome to join.
 - Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. The schedule for the day will feature regular worship at the normal time of 10:15am. This service will have the theme of the final Sunday of Advent. Then the regular Christmas Eve Candlelight services will be held at 5:00pm and 10:00pm. There will NOT be any services on Christmas Day.
 - Sunday morning Education will NOT meet on the 24th or the 31st. Education will resume on January 7th.
 - If you are interested in helping lead Christmas Eve services, look for a sign-up sheet in the narthex. We will need people to serve as acolytes, lectors, ushers, greeters, and communion assistants for both services.
 - The church office will be closed the week between Christmas and New Years. Pastor Scott will also be on vacation this week. Pastor Jon Benson from St John's Lutheran in Council Bluffs will be on call in his absence. Pastor Paula Lawhead will once again join us to lead worship on Sunday the 31st.
 - We are online. Visit our webpage at <http://www.underwoodlutheran.org/> Find information on current ministry opportunities and worship times.
- Look for us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/UnderwoodLutheranChurch> Be sure to "Like" the page for updates about what's happening at ULC.
- Pastor Scott's weekly sermons are available on his blog at <http://thecollarandorangehat.wordpress.com/> Pastor Scott posts his sermons in both text and audio format each week. Look for his posts to be highlighted on Facebook as well as the church website.
- Pastor Scott also posts a weekly gospel discussion video, called Sermon Braindump at <http://www.youtube.com/user/sanchodaleone>



As I sit down to write this article, I am shaking my head in disbelief, realizing that another year is pretty much in the books. Yet, I also feel a sense of pride for our congregation as I think back over the many wonderful aspects of ministry that have happened in the past year. This fall especially has been exciting as we've experienced a strong influx of new faces since Rally Sunday back in September. We've celebrated a new batch of members and have another group pending before the end of the year. We celebrated through the distribution of a record number of Bibles to our Sunday School students. These are just two of ways that we have witnessed the wonderful changes at work within our congregation.

As I think about this, I'm reminded of a series of articles that we shared about a year ago, in the closing months of 2016. These articles were all centered on a central theme of being a welcoming congregation. Now I can't stress enough how important it is to be welcoming. And yet, I feel that it's important to share a bit of caution as we think about just how to live out this distinction.

I've had the opportunity to sit down with various individuals who have come into our congregation over the course of the past few years. My intention for these conversations has been to gain some perspective on our congregation...to learn about aspects that are welcoming and generous, but also to find out if there's anything that doesn't come across as well to a set of fresh eyes.

These conversations have keyed me into an important truth. There's a fine line between being welcomed and being overwhelmed. Perhaps it goes without saying that we consider ourselves to be a place of welcome. But there have been times when we've crossed that line with individuals or families. In some instances, there has been frustration for the individuals when they have felt pressured into participation that they aren't quite ready for. In some other instances, the visitors haven't come back. I don't say this metaphorically. This has happened, and it has happened quite recently.

This is the thing we need to be mindful of. Everyone is going to move at a different pace, and we need to be okay with that. Some will be ready to jump in from day one, but honestly this is rare, likely the exception. Often times, someone new wants to hold on to a sense of anonymity when they're visiting, especially if they are just trying a congregation on for size. For some, this sense might go away in a month or two, or a year or two. Others might be content to simply show up periodically for worship, and that's all the farther their participation and comfort level will ever extend.

My friends, we have to be okay with this. Our world has changed. The way people explore new places or organizations...even church, has changed. We are one aspect of an overly busy society. Nationwide, the average "faithful worshiper" is in church once a month. The congregation simply isn't the central focus of community life. We might not like it...but this is the reality and we need to be honest enough to recognize it.

Now that being said, perhaps you're wondering if I'm saying that we need to stop welcoming anyone new, anyone that we don't recognize, in those times when they join us. No, that's not what I'm saying. But we do need to remember that we can make someone feel welcome without putting pressure on them to engage with every possible opportunity within the congregation.

Say good morning and introduce yourself. Let them know you can answer any questions that they might have. But then let that be enough. All too often, bombarding a brand new person with 20 different things that we want them to be a part of just makes the congregation look needy. It comes across that all we care about is bolstering our numbers, rather than allowing the individual who chooses to join in worship on this day the space to experience God as they need to. Trust me, there will be opportunities for individuals to get involved down the road as they feel comfortable enough to engage.

The wonderful blessing about the body of Christ is that all are welcome. And that each and every person is different. These differences are to be celebrated as they manifest themselves in many different ways...and so let us celebrate them, even as someone else chooses to engage differently than you do.

In Christ

Pastor Scott

Underwood Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2017

Members Present: Pastor Scott Dalen, Michael Johnson, Dick Miller, Jessica Hultquist, Roger Hemmingsen, Bob Pingel, Greg Redshaw, Jeff Poggensee, Alex Schiphoff, Mike Shelton and Carol Yeaton

Others Present: Linda Merdinger

Absent: N/A

Devotions were led by Pastor Scott Dalen.

Secretary's Report: Moved by Pastor Scott and seconded by Jeff Poggensee to approve the 9/13/17 council meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Financial Reports: Linda Merdinger distributed the financial reports. Moved by Mike Shelton and seconded by Dick Miller to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

1. Facility Issues
 - a. New computer for Main Office/Secretary – Pastor to research computer needs and report next month.
2. Parish Education Matters
 - a. Members contributed full amount to cover all 20 'Adopt a Bible'
 - i. Utilized some of the funds to order extra to have on hand.
3. Calendar Matters
 - a. Revisit 2018 Portico Health Benefit Level Selection
 - i. Linda needs to record selection by Oct 27th. Discussion held in relation to plan selection. Moved by Mike Shelton and seconded by Greg Redshaw to continue with the Gold level plan for 2018. Motion carried.
4. Congregational Life
 - a. Exploring Additional Advertising Options for the Faith Formation Coordinator position
5. Pastoral Acts
 - a. Regular visitation schedule
 - b. 153 Communicants (estimated value, 1 recorded week, 1 calculated week)
 - i. September 17th – 107 of 115
 - ii. October 1st – 91 (estimated by past percentage rates) of 107 in worship
 - c. Wedding ceremony for Skylar Dooley and Rita Fox - Sept 23rd (off-site, non-member)
 - d. Vested/participated in Funeral Service for Pastor Noel Kropp Sept 13th

- e. Funeral Prep for Lynn Bertelsen (former member of congregation) – services scheduled for October 14th.

Committee Reports:

1. Operations Committee:
 - a. Preliminary budget will be developed and presented back to the Council at the November meeting.
2. Education Committee:
 - a. No update.
3. Property Committee:
 - a. Church workday scheduled for Saturday October 28 at 9:00am.
4. Life Committees:
 - a. No update.
5. Cross-Generational Ministry:
 - a. Exploring additional advertising opportunities.

Old Business:

1. No updates

New Business:

1. Discussion held in relation to the farm payout request from the Jennings family. Moved by Jessica Hultquist and seconded by Carol Yeaton to seek legal counsel of Bill Bracker for the review and provisional response to the Jennings family regarding the farm payment payout request. Motion carried with Pastor abstaining.

The next council meeting will be held on Thursday, November 9th.

Moved by Pastor Dalen and seconded by Greg Redshaw to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

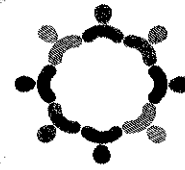
Jessica Hultquist

Underwood Lutheran Church Council Secretary



Thanks to those who greeted in the month of November.

Rob & Kristie McKee, Jadyynn McDonald
 Jeff and Chris Privia
 Richard and Nancy Geise



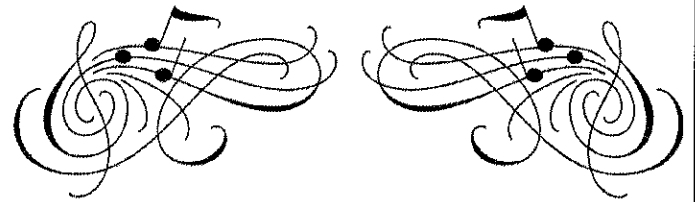
WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Telescope Circle will have their Christmas Party. Details to come.

Martha Circle will meet December 8th at Longhorn Steakhouse at 11:00 am.

Council Meeting

The council meeting will be December 13th at 7:00 pm.



Special Music

Thank you to the following people for special music for the month of November.
 Choraleers

Offerings....

"Our gifts to God"

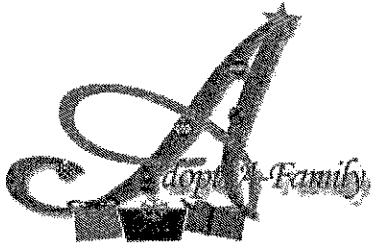
	Offerings	Attendance
Oct. 22	\$ 2203.00	102
Oct. 29	\$ 1581.65	98
Nov. 05	\$ 1745.70	114
Nov. 12	\$ 3307.25	100

Wanted:

One amazing human being

Strong in heart, generous in spirit.

Love kids? Think their faith is important? So do we. Underwood Lutheran is seeking an individual to work part-time in coordinating aspects of Sunday School, Jr High, and Vacation Bible School. You can find a full job-description on our website: underwoodlutheran.org



We are adopting families from Heartland Family Service for Christmas again. Please check out all the items to be purchased this year. The items need to be wrapped and labeled and brought to the church by the middle of December. Thank you for considering this opportunity.

dates to Remember

Mark your calendars for these special dates at Underwood Lutheran in December.

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Dec. 03 | Harvest Festival |
| Dec. 10 | Choraleers Christmas Program |
| Dec. 17 | Sunday School Children Christmas Program/ Jr High Worship Service |
| Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve Service @ 5 pm
Christmas Eve Service @ 10 pm |

All services are at 10:15 am, unless otherwise noted.

GREAT NEWS!

Do you have an Underwood Lutheran Church cookbook published in 1971? This book is fondly referred to as "the RED cookbook".

If your book looks like so many of ours, tattered, stained, pages falling out (in other words--well used). They have been reprinted.

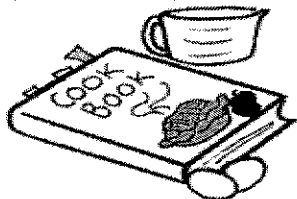
You may contact any of the committee members to place your order:

Nancy Geise, phone (712)322-3010, 24202 Road L-34, Underwood, IA 51576

Nadine Trede, phone (712) 566-2743, 109 First Ave., Underwood, IA 51576

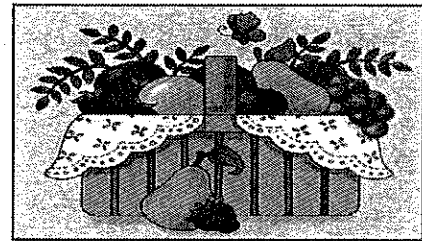
Sandy Redshaw, phone (712) 566-9574, 106 Faith Ave. Underwood, IA 51576

Kathy Darrington, phone (712) 566-2119, 24329 - 272 St., Underwood, IA 51576



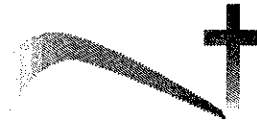
The Joy of CHRISTMAS

CELEBRATE THE SEASON



The Food Pantry Has Moved
to Minden United Church of Christ

New volunteers are needed.
Please contact Mark & Gerri Bjorling
bjorlingm@aol.com
402-968-5357



BETHANY LUTHERAN HOME / BETHANY HEIGHTS

DECEMBER 2017

Decorating for Christmas-The residents and Activities Department at Bethany Lutheran Home will be decorating for Christmas on **Tuesday, December 1st starting at 9:00 a.m.** We would love to have volunteers be a part of the activity. We will be decorating most of the day, so feel free to stop by and help us get in the holiday spirit. If you are able to attend, please contact Kaily Stanley at 712-328-9500, ext. 230.

Bethany Christmas Store Update- We are still accepting items for the Christmas Store. The items must be new. Items for all ages are welcome. Gift bags, tags and tissue paper are also appreciated. **The Christmas Store will be held on December 4th and 5th from 9:00-11:30 a.m. and on December 6th from 6:00 -7:30 p.m.** The store is a place where residents can select gifts for their loved ones at no charge. Many will reminisce about days gone by and the joy of giving at Christmas. Volunteers are needed to help residents select items for their loved ones as well as wrap or gift bag the items. **The Activities Department would also appreciate help in setting up the Christmas Store beginning December 1st.** If you are able to help out, please contact Kaily Stanley at 712-328-9500. Thank you.

Attention Christmas Carolers- We love to have you and want to encourage you to visit us with your music over the holidays. We know it brings great joy to our residents and tenants as well as an opportunity to connect with members of your congregation. We are asking however that you schedule your visit ahead of time with Sarah McCormack at Bethany Heights (712-328-8228, ext. 208) and/or Kaily Stanley at Bethany Lutheran Home (712-328-9500, ext. 230). We love to have you come, but we want to make sure we are available to greet and assist you. The residents and tenants love the music and the visits and we like to spread them out if possible. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. We look forward to hearing your music in the coming weeks.

A Thought- Fifteen dedicated congregations and individuals founded Bethany in the early 1970's through hard work, fundraising, volunteer and family support. We celebrate our 45th anniversary with the continued support of our sponsoring congregations and individuals. **THIS IS YOUR HOME!** Bethany has grown over the years to meet the needs of area seniors, but all of this could not be done without YOU. As you celebrate the holidays and the New Year, we would invite you to consider a gift to Bethany or designating your Thrivent Choice Dollars. Gifts to Bethany are tax deductible to the extent of the law and help continue to provide support and services for our residents and tenants.

Did you also know that Bethany Heights has a scholarship program available to assist individuals living at Bethany Heights whose financial resources have become limited? The scholarship program provides the needed support for an individual to remain at Bethany Heights, the place they call home.

If you are looking for a way to make an impact in the lives of others, we invite you to prayerfully consider Bethany in your year-end giving.

Bethany Annual Meeting- The Annual Meeting of Bethany Lutheran Home will be held on Sunday, January 7th, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in the Skyrise Dining Room (Upper Dining Room) at Bethany, 7 Elliott Street. All Sponsoring Congregation Delegates are encouraged to attend. Visitors are also welcome. The meeting will include various department reports, financial report and election of Board Members for 2018. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Peggy Karstens at Bethany Lutheran Home 712-328-9500. ***In the event of inclement weather or our need to postpone the meeting due to flu, please contact Bethany at 712-328-9500 and/or tune to your local television station if appropriate, before heading to Bethany.***

Bethany Auxiliary Meeting- The Quarterly meeting of the Bethany Auxiliary will be held on Monday, January 8th at 2:00 p.m. in the Dining Room at Bethany Lutheran Home. St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Treynor is the host. The meeting will include the installation of new officers, discussion of the upcoming bake sale and a highlights from the Christmas Store and other activities. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your church Key Lady or Diane Carlon at 712-329-5451.

Bethany Heights Apartments Available- Bethany Heights Senior Living Community has several apartments available for seniors. Do you know someone or perhaps even you, who would enjoy the benefits of living in a senior community in the New Year? Maybe someone interested in living independently or having the benefits of an assisted living community? Bethany Heights offers both independent and assisted living services in apartments ranging in sizes from a Studio to Two Bedroom/Two bathroom. As an individual's needs increase, services are delivered directly to your apartment. Something unique to the area. We'd love for you to schedule a visit. Small pets are welcome. For more information or to set up a visit please contact Paula Fandry at Bethany Heights 712-328-8228.

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11/26 Pastor Scott on Vacation 9:00 AM Sunday School/Confirmation/Adult Forum 10:15 AM Worship Service	27 Pastor Scott on Vacation	28	29 6:00 PM Small Catechism	30	12/1	2
3 9:00 AM Sunday School/Confirmation/Adult Forum 10:15 AM Worship Service/Holy Communion	4	5	6 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM High School Group	7	8 11:00 AM Martha Circle @ Longhorn Steakhouse	9 Basement Rented/Letner Family
10 9:00 AM Sunday School/Confirmation/Adult Forum 10:15 AM Worship Service/Choraleers Christmas	11	12	13 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Council Meeting	14 Telescope Circle/Christmas Party	15	16
17 9:00 AM Sunday School/Confirmation/Adult Forum 10:15 AM Worship Service/Sunday School Program/Holy Communion	18	19	20 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM High School Group	21	22	23
24 10:15 AM Worship Service 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 Pastor Scott / Vacation	26 Pastor Scott / Vacation	27 Pastor Scott / Vacation	28 Pastor Scott / Vacation	29 Pastor Scott / Vacation	30 Pastor Scott / Vacation
31 Pastor Scott / Vacation 10:15 AM Worship Service	1/1	2	3	4	5	6

Worship Participants for December, 2017

If you are unable to participate as scheduled, please call the office-566-2257

ORGANISTS	Dec. 03	Nancy Dose	COMMUNION
	Dec. 10	Judy Pingel	
	Dec. 17	Nancy Dose	COMMUNION
	Dec. 24	Judy Pingel	
	Dec. 31	Nancy Dose	
ACOLYTES	Dec. 03	Quentin Wollan	COMMUNION
	Dec. 10	Hannah Wulff	
	Dec. 17	Jack Dalen	COMMUNION
	Dec. 24	Ellie Hackett	
	Dec. 31	Kendra Kuck	
LECTORS	Dec. 03	Brian Leaders	COMMUNION
	Dec. 10	Gary Leaders	
	Dec. 17	Lea Voss	COMMUNION
	Dec. 24	Tonya Mayer	
	Dec. 31	Richard Miller	
USHERS	Dec. 03	Jeff and Tracy Shreeves	COMMUNION
	Dec. 10	Lewis Curtis and Jeremy Hultquist	
	Dec. 17	Neil and Adam Darrington	COMMUNION
	Dec. 24	Mike Doiel and Dick Miller	
	Dec. 31	Jeff Poggensee and Mike Shelton	
GREETERS	Dec. 03	Gary & Jan Ehrens, Weta Butterfield	COMMUNION
	Dec. 10	The "Choraleers"	
	Dec. 17	Sunday School	COMMUNION
	Dec. 24		
	Dec. 31		
SPECIAL MUSIC	Dec. 03		COMMUNION
	Dec. 10	The "Choraleers"	
	Dec. 17	Sunday School Christmas Program	COMMUNION
	Dec. 24		
	Dec. 31		

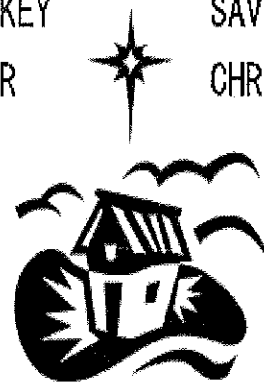
ALTAR GUILD: Kathy Darrington and Julie Larsen
CARRYING ELEMENTS: Neil and Kathy Darrington
DEACON: Mike Shelton



Christmas Word Find

G C P M E H E F F N Y Y A S E
 V F I O G K N O C Y R R I L B
 Z H S J Z X U H E G A B Z N B
 H A T I D U R X S Z M E I P E
 R P L R S I L E N T N I G H T
 R K O Q S N E M E S I W A J H
 Y L X T Y Z S W C Z S P E P L
 M I M F H F N P N S J V E K E
 J A B T T B A R I O R S X Z H
 S A I Y L Y T E K V O F L W E
 H A Y E Y T I G N J I O E E M
 F A M K R H V N A E V U G P E
 M A A N W A I A R S A S N O E
 C I H O T C T M F U S O A H F
 D J E D K Q Y S V S W T E K Q

JESUS	HAY
MARY	ANGEL
JOSEPH	FAITH
WISEMEN	HOPE
MANGER	FRANKINCENSE
NATIVITY	MYRRH
BETHLEHEM	SILENT NIGHT
CAMEL	LORD
DONKEY	SAVIOR
STAR	CHRISTMAS



"THE MESSENGER"
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